

Dear Jeff and "in,

10/11/78

I write on the chance that I can get into the post office before the last mail leaves or failing that on the chance mailing this in the morning will reach you before Jim comes up.

^{Lesar} Jim gave me the Guinn tape and I looked forward to hearing it even if he did tell me the quality is poor. I planned today for mixing that up with some outside work, which I needed badly after too long a stretch at the typewriter. I could listen to the tape and transcribe useful parts, I thought, while I rested.

It wasn't much rest. It was exasperation. When Jim said the quality was poor I figured my wife would not be able to transcribe all of it, as she'd said she would. Poor praises this!

Maybe the original tape is very bad. But I have difficulty believing that it is. I suspect the distortion is in the dubbing. So, what I'd appreciate is bringing the original up because some of what Guinn said may be significant in a suit.

I did not recognize Lardner's voice. I also noticed variations in level, a large gap with nothing on it and sounds like the thing was switched on and then off. Some of the questions Lardner asked and the answers hold promise. So if this is only part of the tape I'd like to hear all of it because you people are not really aware of my interests. I gather from what I could make out of the questions and answers that this was true of everyone.

I've suffered through more than half of the first side, going back so many times I can't remember how many, and still managed to get remarkably little.

I'll return the tape first time I'm in Washington after I've gone over it. This depends on when you come up. I'll be in D.C. briefly Monday a.m. for a dental appointment. Probably have to go back on that. I'll not be going downtown those trips. The dentist is in northwest and I have a ride both ways.

If it is possible for one of you to see Jim Lesar before coming up he has some legal-sized file folders of a kind he does not like. I need some so I'd appreciate one or two boxes. 100 in a box. It doesn't pay to mail them, he wants to get rid of them, I need some so I'll pay him instead of the stationer.

Guinn was willing to talk, as many older people are willing to do with younger people. I wish the questioning had taken a different direction. There may have been much that was good but I can't tell it. I couldn't make out a word Hoch said. Lifton was not entirely incomprehensible but when he wasn't he also spoke much too fast. So often where I can make out a few words of what Guinn said they have no meaning because he was responding to a question that I can't make out at all.

I hope you can be prepared better for the next hearings because what people say off the stand may be much more significant. My poorest tape record would have been adequate so I'm at a loss to understand how this tape can be so poor in quality. If you think it is your machine, see if you can't borrow a decent one. Most of these not lowest in price and with a built-in omni-directional mike have fairly good pickup and automatic volume control. As an alternative you can use a mike. If you don't have one, I can lend you a decent one. If you can get someone to wire a different plug onto it I probably have one I'm not going to use, one with a Norelco-type plug, that I'd give you. But paying for the simple job may well cost more than buying one ready to use.

JL- They wasted most of the time they had with Guinn, from what I can make out. I have difficulty understanding how they could have gotten so terrible a tape. It sounds like a radio station not tuned in well. It may be in the dubbing. I think they left everything out except themselves. I know Lardner spoke to Guinn and all I've heard is so-called critics.